



Department of Medical Assistance Services
600 East Broad Street, Suite 1300
Richmond, Virginia 23219
<http://dmasva.dmas.virginia.gov>

Proposed Changes to Mental Health Support Services FACT SHEET

What is this service?	Mental Health Skill-Building Services (MHSS) is the new name for Mental Health Support Services. The name change reflects that MHSS is a training service -- not a mental health treatment service, a preventative service, or a crisis service. MHSS is a training service for individuals with significant, chronic mental illness. The service is designed to train individuals in activities of daily living, use of community resources, behavior related to health, safety, nutrition, physical condition, and medication so that they may achieve and maintain community stability and independence.														
What are the costs of MHSS?	<div><h3>MHSS Expenditures</h3><table><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>Expenditure (\$)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2008</td><td>45,000,000.00</td></tr><tr><td>2009</td><td>65,000,000.00</td></tr><tr><td>2010</td><td>90,000,000.00</td></tr><tr><td>2011</td><td>135,000,000.00</td></tr><tr><td>2012</td><td>185,000,000.00</td></tr></tbody></table></div>		Year	Expenditure (\$)	2008	45,000,000.00	2009	65,000,000.00	2010	90,000,000.00	2011	135,000,000.00	2012	185,000,000.00	Since fiscal year 2008, there has been a \$138 million increase in the cost of this service.
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Why are changes needed?	Vague eligibility criteria have allowed individuals who do not have a diagnosis of significant mental illness to receive MHSS. MHSS is being utilized as companion care, rather than skill building/training for individuals with significant mental illness.														
What are the proposed changes to eligibility for MHSS?	<p>Under the new eligibility criteria for the service, an individual must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have a qualifying mental health diagnosis;• have prior history of qualifying mental health treatment (e.g. psychiatric hospitalization, residential treatment, temporary detention order);• have had a prescription for an anti-psychotic, mood stabilizing, or anti-depressant medication within the twelve months prior to the assessment date; and• be in an independent living situation or transferring into one within six months if under the age of 21.														
Service Authorizations	Services provided under any authorization which is already in effect on the effective date of the revised regulations shall adhere to the new daily, weekly and annual limits as well as the new unit billing system. No other changes required under the revised regulations will apply until the renewal of the service authorization occurs. All requirements identified in 12VAC 30-50-226 and 12 VAC 30-60-143 shall apply to all authorizations requested on or after the effective date of this regulation.														

What are the proposed changes relating to overlaps with other services?	<p>The changes will prohibit duplication of services by prohibiting overlaps of MHSS with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ID or DD Waiver- in-home residential services or congregate residential services through the waiver;• DSS or CSA- independent living skills services;• Treatment foster care; and• Inpatient services: hospitals and intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded. <p>The changes will limit the amount of MHSS that may be provided in assisted living facilities, group homes, nursing homes, and residential treatment centers.</p>						
What are the proposed changes to the units and rate?	Current	1 to 2.99 hours		3 to 4.99 hours		5 to 6.99 hours	7+ hours
		\$91.00/\$83.00		\$182.00/ \$166.00		\$273.00/ \$249.00	\$364.00/ \$332.00
		Unit 1		Unit 2		Unit 3	Unit 4
	Proposed	1-1.99	2-2.99	3-3.99	4-4.99		
		\$45.50/ \$41.50	\$91.00/ \$83.00	\$136.50/ \$124.50	\$182.00/ \$166.00		
		Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4		
Why are these rates reasonable?	<p>MHSS may be provided by mental health paraprofessionals. An individual may qualify as a paraprofessional with 90 hours of classroom experience and 12 weeks of experience under the supervision of qualified staff.</p> <p>Rather than making a significant rate cut across the board, DMAS modified the unit of service based on the existing rate to improve accountability.</p>						
Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic Service Limits: 4 units daily; 20 units weekly; and 1040 units annually• Individuals in Assisted Living Facilities or Group Home (Level A & B): 16 units weekly; and 832 units annually.• Individuals in Nursing Facilities: Lifetime benefit of 60 days prior to discharge.• Individuals in Residential Treatment Centers: Only the assessment for MHSS may be billed within 7 days of discharge from the facility.						
Effective date	These changes will take place as soon as the emergency regulation process is complete. It is expected that the regulations will be implemented in Summer, 2013.						
Who to contact?	<p>Please contact the Behavioral Health Unit at DMAS with any questions you may have.</p> <p>Phone: 804-786-1002.</p> <p>Email: CMHRS@dmass.virginia.gov</p>						